



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Division of Health Care Finance and Policy
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c.118G and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, as amended, a public hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 10:00 AM at the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy ("Division"), Two Boylston Street, 5th floor, Boston, MA relative to the adoption of amendments to:

114.3 CMR 4.00: Rates for Community Health Centers

The proposed amendments increase community health center payments by \$4.2 million during the remainder of SFY 2009. Funds for the rate increase are allocated from the SFY 2009 Essential Community Provider Trust Fund and the new payment rates are effective February 7, 2009 through June 30, 2009. The amendments increase the individual medical visit rate by 15.24% from \$122.47 to \$141.14. All other rates except the urgent care after-hours add-on are also increased by 15.24%. The urgent care after-hours add-on will increase by 17%, from \$41.37 to \$48.40. All payment rates will revert back to their current levels on July 1, 2009. Also, the amendments delete reference to the dental enhancement fee (code D9450) which will now be governed by the Dental Services regulation pursuant to pending proposed amendments to that regulation. Finally, the amendments update the language and organization of the regulation.

The Division is proposing these amendments to ensure that the rates are consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care, and to ensure access to care and services. The amendments will increase the payments for community health center services under 114.3 CMR 4.00 by \$4.1 million; the remaining \$113,000 will be allocated to increase the payments for CHC dental services which are governed by the Division's Dental Services regulation. It is estimated that aggregate expenditures by MassHealth will increase by \$4.1 million as a result of these amendments. The fiscal impact upon cities and towns will depend on the volume and mix of services purchased and is expected to be minimal. The fiscal impact on individual providers will vary depending on the mix and volume of services provided. The Division adopted the amendments as emergency regulations effective February 7, 2009.

Interested parties are encouraged to submit comments on these amendments. All persons desiring to be heard on this matter are hereby notified to appear at the designated time and place. Persons intending to speak will be afforded an early opportunity to testify if the Division receives notice by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, March 10, 2009. All others will be heard subsequently. Written comments may be sent to the Division at Two Boylston Street, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02116.

Copies of the regulation are available for inspection and/or purchase at the Division, Two Boylston Street, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02116 or you can access them free of charge in the Regulations section of the Division's web site located at www.mass.gov/dhcfp.